

## **DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**ON MONDAY 21 MARCH 2022**

- Present: Councillor Gloria Martin (Town Mayor), Liz Jones (Deputy Town Mayor), Sid Abbott, Philip Crawley (Vice-Chairman), Wendy Bater, Lisa Bird, Matthew Brennan and Peter Hollick
- In Attendance: David Ashlee (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), Lisa Scheder (Finance and Procurement Manager) and Ian Reed (Democratic Services Manager)
- Apologies: Councillors Matt Brennan, John Gurney, Gloria Martin Lee Roberts and Cameron Restall
- Public Attendance: One

#### **56. MEETING DECLARED INQUORATE**

The meeting was inquorate there being insufficient Members to constitute a quorum .Although the Chairman advised that the Committee could not make any decisions the Committee decided to consider the agenda items

#### **57. MINUTES**

The Committee was advised that minutes of the meeting of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 24 January 2022 would be submitted for approval at the next meeting of the Committee.

#### **58. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no specific declarations of interest.

#### **59. PROVISION OF HONOUR BOARDS TO RECORD THE DATES OF MAYORS AND TOWN CLERKS**

The Committee had been circulated with a report promoting the purchase of honour boards to record the names of the Mayors of Dunstable and the Town Clerks for Dunstable Town Council.. The proposal was welcomed. It was requested that the boards selected should fit in with the décor at Grove House. The Committee was advised that the purchase of the boards was already provided for in existing budgets

#### **60. REFERRAL REPORTS**

The Committee was informed that the referral from the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee relating to the release of up to £14,870 from the earmarked Vehicle and Equipment Reserve to purchase a gang mower would be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee for consideration.

## **61. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT**

The revenue budget position for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 January 2022 was noted. The summary showed a potential net revenue overspend at end of financial year of £8,554..This figure included £82,551 of previously approved commitments from the General Reserve that could be met from in year forecasted revenue savings mainly due to increased trading at Creasey Park Community Football Centre and savings accrued as a result of staff vacancies as detailed in the report..

The Committee noted the current balance of the Council's earmarked reserves as of 28 February 2022. The Committee had been circulated with the second interim 2021/2022 internal audit report. which once again gave the Town Council a clean bill of health

## **62. MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The Committee considered a report on the Town Councils 'marketing and communications plans and It was noted the website was continuing to see more visitors. The noticeboards were being used more. For example, all ward councillors contact details would be included in the appropriate notice boards.

## **63. DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY**

The Committee at its next meeting would consider the adoption of a Domestic Abuse Policy

## **64. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

- a) CAB Management Committee - no report. (IR to again contact CAB to ensure they had Councillor Wendy Baters contact details
- b) DITA - Councillor Sid Abbott reported that DITA had held a series of meetings with the Town Council to make arrangements for Town Twinning visitors from Germany to visit the town during the Jubilee weekend. There would be a reception held on 4 June and they would be invited to watch the Queens Jubilee Concert being screened in Priory Gardens
- c) Hospice at Home Management Committee – Councillor Jones reported that its Annual General Meeting would be held soon. Volunteers were busy fundraising and identifying funding sources
- d) Ashton Alms-houses Charity – Councillor Hollick reported the charity had a meeting set for 7 April. He advised he would make a full report at the next Committee meeting
- e) The Committee was assured that for future meetings all the charities appointed at the Annual Council Meeting with councillor representation would be listed for report

**The meeting closed at 19.20.**